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South Dakota Farm and Home Research

SDSU Agricultural Experiment Station

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Winter 1989

## South Dakota Farm and Home Research

South Dakota State University

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# farm & home research

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## Native Americans in South Dakota

page 14



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## Director's comments

**We won't say 'quits,' but  
there isn't much time left**

**Ray Moore**  
Agricultural Experiment Station

My greatest frustration as Director of the SDAES is to receive letters and calls implicating the Ag Experiment Station as a major component in the promotion and use of ag chemicals.

I believe we are no more responsible for this situation than we are for the size of tractors on farms, the size of the farm or ranch, or the price of commodities.

We do not manufacture chemicals or conduct research to develop them. We do evaluate them, and we should. You ask us to do this; you need to know how to use chemicals under our South Dakota conditions.

We are, in a small way, conducting research that would reduce the use of chemicals. The only reason we do so little is because we lack the funds to do more.

We use the dollars you provide to do the things you ask, and this is proper. Not enough of you are asking for research to reduce our use of chemicals. But many of you are concerned; I get a lot of good response when I talk about this at meetings. Someone will always ask, however, "How long before we see results?"

The only honest answer is many years. To develop a crop variety that has its own built-in resistance to pests without sacrificing quality or yield is a challenge. But only a challenge. With the tools of today's biotechnology, sufficient time,

and, of course, good scientists who are adequately funded, I firmly believe we could develop such a variety.

Researchers have already developed a corn plant that has nodulated roots like those of legumes. The corn can produce some of its own nitrogen needs. Unfortunately, when it does, it does not have enough energy left to produce a satisfactory ear.

Many give up and say this is the final chapter. I say that it is only the beginning.

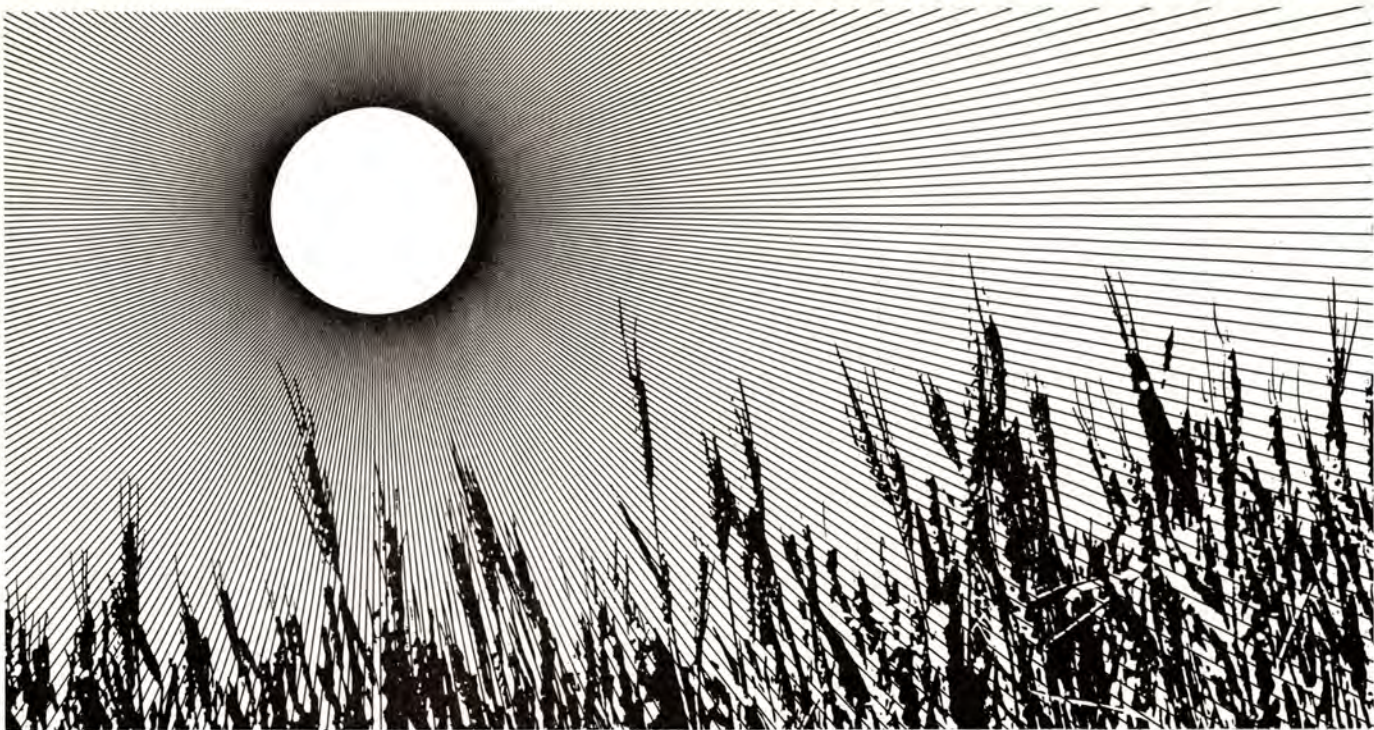
I am starting to feel a need for haste in pursuing this goal of reducing our chemical overload. When I look in the mirror, I know that before long, if I don't turn in my keys, someone is going to come looking for them.

There's an even greater urgency. Some private seed companies are now merging with chemical companies. Their purpose is to produce new crop varieties that are "paired up" with one or more chemicals.

Who's to say that someday soon there won't be a seed genetically altered to include herbicide action, or that there won't be seeds encapsulated with a chemical "paste," or that you won't make a "package deal" that includes bags or jugs of certain chemicals specific to only

*(Director's comments continued on page 34)*





# Spring wheat: 'could have been worse'

**Modern varieties and better farming  
methods saved at least a skimpy crop**

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This is small comfort to spring wheat growers this year: average yields could have been worse.

The record spring wheat yield for South Dakota was in 1984 at 34 bu/A. The record production of 64.5 million bu came in 1985. These records culminated a period of consistent increases of grain yields beginning in the late 1970s.

Then came the drought of 1988.

There were no spectacular yields this year. Sometimes there were no yields. Nevertheless, the year wasn't a total loss. It gave wheat breeders a jump on the next drought that comes along; we had no problem finding the plants in the SDSU breeding plots that tolerated drought. We can combine them with high yielders to develop new varieties for the dry years in the future.

For producers, too, there was something gained this year. The "new" varieties you planted carried you through the 1988 drought in better shape than the

spring wheats your fathers grew in their days or even the varieties you used in 1976.

The average yield for spring wheat this year was estimated by the South Dakota Agricultural Statistical Service to be only 12 bu/A with an abandonment of 30%. This is less than half the yield for the 5-year average (1983-1987) when the average yield was 28 bu/A with a 3% abandonment.

Compare that with the drought year of 1934, when spring wheat yields in South Dakota were only 4 bu/A with 96% abandonment.

In 1956, the average yield was 9 bu/A. Twenty years later in 1976, also a notoriously dry year, the average yield was 11 bu/A and the abandonment was 27%.

The 12 bu/A produced this year was disappointing, but it is three times greater than the yields of the 30s and 1.5 times greater than in the 50s drought.



## Chris and Marquis couldn't keep up with modern varieties; farming skills helped

Most drought years bring along extremely high temperatures during the growing season, and 1988 was no exception. Spring wheat, in general, is considered drought tolerant, but it is sensitive to high temperatures since it is a cool-season grass. An increase of average air temperature from 65 to 75 degrees F reduces head size of wheat by 22%. In addition, the drought hit the north-central and northeast areas of the state hardest. These are the major spring wheat areas of South Dakota. If you're keeping track and don't include drought itself, that's a double whammy already.

Yet the average yield, poor as it was, was not as bad as in past drought years. An "interactive system," with inputs from several areas of technology, is responsible.

As with most systems, each component will make an individual contribution, but the system will only operate best when all components are utilized. The individual components can be divided into two general categories: (1) improvement of conditions for plant growth and development, and (2) improved varieties.

Weed control has been the leading improvement in cultural practices. Weeds "rob" the crop of moisture, nutrients, and light. The loss of these essential ingredients is important every year; it is critical in drought years.

Fertility management has improved also; a plant with a good nutrient status can withstand stress better. It can also use other inputs with greater efficiency. Other factors are (1) improved equipment for more timely field operating and less harvest loss, (2) better soil moisture conservation, (3) more protection of the crop from diseases and insect pests, and (4) a general improvement in producers' abilities.

The plants themselves take their share of the credit. All we have to do to show that is compare yields from older and newer varieties grown in the same locations in "good" years (1984-1987) and in a "bad" year (1988).

The yields given in Table 1 are from the statewide trial conducted by the Spring Wheat Breeding Project. All varieties were released during the late 70s and 80s with the exception of Chris. As new



Be on the lookout for new varieties, says Fred Cholick, SDSU spring wheat breeder. This year has shown us that the percentage increase in yield of modern over older varieties was the same in 1988 as it was in "good" years. Drought will strike again, but technology—better management and new varieties— will help stabilize average yield at a higher level.

varieties were developed, older ones were removed from the comparison. For example, Butte was replaced by Butte 86 in 1985.

Chris, the comparison, is older; it was the leading spring wheat grown in South Dakota during the late 60s and early 70s.

When comparing performance, remember that these yield responses also include improvements in conditions for plant growth and development.

In every year, all the improved varieties produced greater yields than Chris. On average, they yielded 34% more.

This percentage of improvement was relatively constant even though the actual yield varied greatly. On a percentage basis, the increase in yield was approximately the same in the drought year of 1988 as it was in the other 4 years. (In 1984 this increase was 12.4 bu/A, while it was 4.6 bu/A in 1988.)

These results, from trials throughout the spring wheat production area, show us two major things: First, the relative



**Table 1. Yield in bushels per acre comparisons from the spring wheat breeding advanced yield trials comparing new and old varieties.**

Variety	Origin & Yr. released	Years				
		1984* —8*	1985 —8—	1986 —7—	1987 —8—	1988 —7—
Chris	MN 65	37.9	39.4	29.1	32.4	14.0
Butte	ND 77	50.9	—	—	—	—
Marshall	MN 82	48.0	47.1	—	—	—
Guard	SD 83	48.7	48.6	39.0	39.2	18.5
Stoa	ND 84	53.7	49.2	42.6	43.8	19.3
Butte-86	ND 86	—	51.6	44.0	44.2	19.1
Prospect	SD 88	—	—	42.4	44.2	18.2
Average Improved	(bu/A)	50.3	49.1	42.0	42.8	18.8
Improvement	(bu/A)	12.4	9.7	12.9	10.4	4.6
<b>Improvement</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>34.3</b>

\*Number of Locations

**Table 2. Yield comparisons of new and old varieties grown in eastern South Dakota.**

Variety	Origin, yr released	Year				
		1984 —3*	1985 —3—	1986 —3—	1987 —3—	1988 —3—
Marquis	Can 1903	34.4	44.1	19.5	24.8	9.9
Chris	MN 65	36.7	48.2	29.0	34.0	15.5
Butte 86	ND 86	54.2	60.4	45.7	46.0	20.3
Stoa	ND 83	—	—	45.2	46.8	21.6
Shield	SD 87	52.8	60.0	—	—	—
Prospect	SD 88	50.8	63.1	47.5	—	—
Average Improved		52.5	61.2	46.1	46.4	21.0
Improvement (bu/A)						
Marquis		18.2	17.1	26.6	21.6	11.1
Chris		15.9	13.0	17.1	12.4	5.5
Improvement (%)						
Marquis		52.9	38.8	136	87.1	112
Chris		43.3	27.0	59.0	36.5	35.5

\*Number of Locations

magnitude of increased yields was the same in "good" and "poor" years. Second, production is strongly influenced by environmental factors that are presently beyond our control.

We can make the case even stronger by going farther back in time to pick up and plant the variety Marquis for comparison.

Marquis was released by Canada in the early 1900s. At that time, it was a "breakthrough" variety, and it was the dominant spring wheat for nearly 20 years until the late 1930s.

Comparisons to Marquis (Table 2) show that the improved varieties increased yield by 85%. Again, the consistently higher yields occurred in relatively good and poor growing years.

Averaged over the last 5 years, Chris yielded 6 bu/A more than Marquis, with a range of 2.3 to 9.5 bu/A. During the same time period, the improved varieties averaged nearly 13 bu/A more than Chris, with a range of 6 to 17 bu/A.

### **To stabilize yield over the years: switch to new varieties, use up-to-date skills**

The lesson to be learned? A variety may have served you well in the past, but loyalty to an old friend, if it's only a spring wheat, doesn't bring in the yield. Keep up with the new releases; find one that suits your growing area and your improved cultural practices, and try it on at least a portion of your acreage.

Technology—better management and new varieties—will take us far, but we still have that "unknown" component of the interactive system we talked about before, that component "beyond our control." The environment will always be reflected in yields. Drought will come again, but the components we put into the system and can control will be better. Those components are stabilizing our average yield at higher levels than in the past, in good years and in bad. □

The writer is Fred Cholic, SDSU spring wheat breeder.





# Forecast: continued 'infinite variety'

**We're just in right spot to be hit  
from all sides, says Mr. Weatherman**

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"I've seen some of South Dakota's driest, wettest, and warmest years since the 1930s."

He's not only seen them; he's recorded them. After 27 years at SDSU, Bill Lytle, state climatologist and weather researcher in the Ag Engineering Department, has retired after collecting a roomful (and more) of climatical data records. From them he pulled out a few special years to talk about.

"A lot of weather records have been set in South Dakota within the last decade. The wettest year on record is 1982 when the statewide precipitation average was 25.47 inches."

On the other side of the fence, 1976 was the driest year during Lytle's tenure at SDSU with a statewide precipitation average of 12.88 inches.

"That was the fourth driest year in South Dakota since records began." The 3 years that topped 1976 were in the '30s.





Everybody has a favorite personal weather story. Bill Lytle, retiring SDSU weather researcher, has heard and seen them all and is hard put to pick out the prize story among 27 years of records. His data didn't just gather dust; they helped counties obtain disaster relief and they contributed to long-range forecasting techniques, among other things.



"Last year, 1987, we had the second highest average yearly temperature on record. The year 1931 still holds the record for the warmest year, with an average temperature of 50.1 degrees F," Lytle said.

The hottest temperature ever recorded in South Dakota was 120 degrees F in Gann Valley in 1936. Ironically, the coldest temperature was also recorded in 1936 at minus 56 degrees F in McIntosh.

This year, 1988, didn't make the record books. The 1930s still have it beat, Lytle said.

"In Brookings, for the months of June, July, and August, there were 6 days over 100 degrees and 26 days over 90 degrees." Brookings residents may remember the summer differently, but Lytle has the drop on them—his records are "official." The summer of 1936 topped 1988, with 18 days over 100 degrees and 44 days over 90 degrees.

According to Lytle, July and August of 1988 averaged out to have temperatures very near normal; however, May and June were considerably warmer than normal.

The average temperature in May was 5.2 degrees above normal; in June it was 7.5 degrees above normal.

"This year has been dry, but South Dakota has seen worse," Lytle said.

In July, the statewide precipitation average was 1.27 inches, 53% of normal (2.32 inches). "For the entire year to August 30, a statewide sample of precipitation shows 9.87 inches, 79% of the normal 12.46 inches."

"Of course, different areas of the state have been affected differently by the drought," Lytle said. Northeastern and north-central South Dakota experienced extreme drought this year. Most of the rest of the state had severe drought, except south-central South Dakota, which has only had moderate drought.

"The winter of 1969 was the year for snow.

"Brookings recorded 78 inches of snow and Sioux Falls recorded 98 inches. It just couldn't seem to stop coming down.

"When it finally did melt, we had the worst spring floods I've ever seen. The



highest peak in the Big Sioux River at Sioux Falls was four times its normal height," Lytle said.

### **It's more than reading thermometer twice a day; records help get disaster relief**

Record keeping was only part of Lytle's job at SDSU.

"Over the years, my job was to compile weather data, not to make short-term forecasts, but to determine long-term probability."

He supplied the National Weather Service with climatical data since 1973. As a researcher, "I provided climatical data to anyone that needed it, such as county extension offices, ASCS offices, and private businesses."

Counties need accurate climatical data when applying for disaster relief, Lytle said.

Over the years Lytle also provided information for the Department of Water and Natural Resources, the state's Department of Agriculture, and the Statistical Service in Sioux Falls.

At first, "the only type of computer I had stored all of its information on cards. It seemed like I had about a million of those cards around. If I wanted to check some data I had to find the card first."

Collecting the data was only the beginning of Lytle's work. He developed statistical programs for the data, such as correlations between wind directions, barometric pressure, and temperature. He published monthly reports. He shared his methods and analyses with the climatologists of the 13 north-central states.

Before coming to SDSU, Lytle earned bachelor degrees in ag engineering and civil engineering and a master's in civil engineering from the University of Illinois. The Air Force sent him to the University of Chicago to complete training in meteorology.

He spent 5 years in Europe forecasting for the United States Air Force during World War II. After the war he taught and researched at the University of Illinois and Louisiana State University before coming to SDSU.

### **Just the right position to get hit from all sides with all types of weather'**

Lytle taught classes at SDSU in ag engineering, and he feels this helped him keep up with new technology.

"The jet stream did a lot to advance weather technology. They first discovered the jet stream during World War II when bombers ran into some 200 mph head winds, but it took a while to really understand what effect they have on the weather," Lytle said.

"There's a relatively new discovery that is being studied now—the 'El Nino.'"

The El Nino is an increase in ocean water temperature off the coast of Peru. This warm water builds up and heads toward the equator and into the Pacific Ocean, changing the location and strength of high and low pressure areas.

"It's kind of hard to believe that an increase in ocean water temperature along the coast of Peru could eventually affect the weather in South Dakota, but studies seem to be proving it. The changes in the Pacific Ocean currents affect our winds, our high and low pressures, and even our temperatures," Lytle said.

"After 27 years in South Dakota, I've come to the conclusion that our state is definitely an area of infinite weather variety.

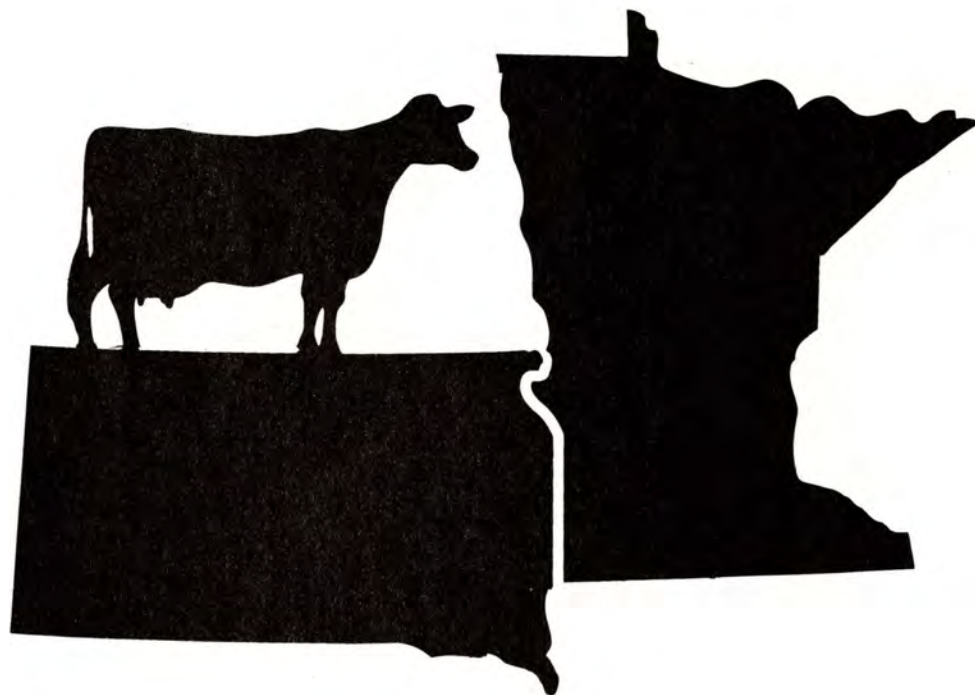
"We seem to be in just the right position to get hit from all sides with all types of weather. Low pressures from the Rocky Mountains can cause cold or warm fronts, depending on which direction they turn. A front in Canada can keep the temperature subzero for weeks at a time, or a low from the gulf can bring up moisture."

With his long-term experience in weather analysis, Lytle has been the source for many radio, television, and newspaper stories. When the weather in South Dakota gets even more extreme than usual he's had calls from the AP in New York and Los Angeles.

The calls will keep coming. A man with Lytle's reputation and records doesn't just fade into the sunset at retirement. He'll have his weather eye on those clouds. □

*The author is Julie Halverson, SDSU ag news writer.*





# Dairy Center: a teamwork showcase

**One of just six in country leads off  
with new-product, food-safety research**

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Product safety and new markets are the two major influences behind the research projects in SDSU's new Dairy Research Center.

The Center, one of six nationwide, is a joint operation of the SDSU Dairy Science Department and the University of Minnesota Department of Food Science and Nutrition.

"The name is appropriate," says John Parsons, head of SDSU's Dairy Science Department, "even though you might have trouble finding the exact physical 'center' in either St. Paul or Brookings."

Two strong departments with different areas of expertise have come together to accomplish what they could not do separately.



"We will be able to meet the real needs of the dairy industry, not only in our region but nationwide, in a way that neither department could have done by itself."

SDSU is nationally known for its dairy technologist training program, and Minnesota for its dairy product research.

The Dairy Center, officially opened this past summer, is contracted by the USDA and the National Dairy Board. The Center supports the development of new dairy products and new ways of using dairy products.

As an example of things to come from the joint research center, Parsons said, SDSU will test the cheese cultures developed by a Minnesota researcher for flavor, palatability, and acid development in the cheese product.

"We make cheese every day; we know how to do that part of the research," Parsons said. "The cultures were developed with biotechnological techniques which we can't do at present but don't need so long as we can work together."

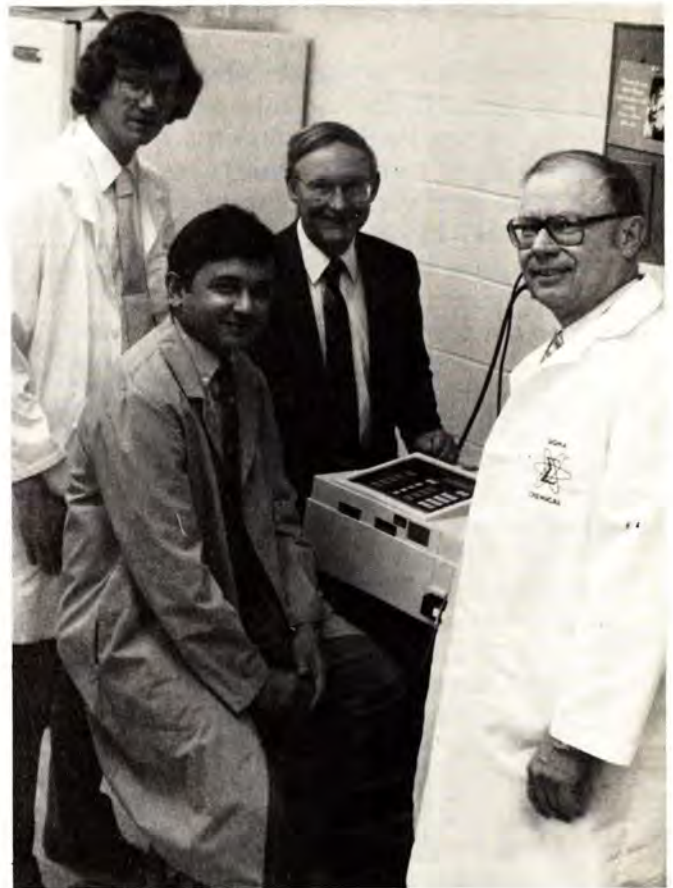
"A team of horses can plow new ground better than one horse yoked up by itself."

SDSU dairy scientists are also initiating projects. Their prime concern may be product safety, but they are also interested in helping the dairy industry offer attractive new products to consumers.

### **Food safety standards are tough but 'there is more to be done'**

The multistate salmonellosis outbreak of 1985 and the increasing number of reports of milkborne campylobacteriosis fuel the urgency to detect ever-smaller quantities of pathogenic organisms in ever-larger quantities of milk.

A high-volume dairy combines milks from different suppliers in large silos before processing, writes George Torrey in his project proposal. If milkborne pathogens come in from any supplier, they are diluted in the entire milk supply and become next to impossible to find by current detection methods.



SDSU dairy scientists Bob Baer, Vikram Mistry, John Parsons, and George Torrey (l to r) are leading researchers in the South Dakota section of the Dairy Center. SDSU's nationally recognized specialty is dairy technology; its partner, the University of Minnesota, is strong in basic research. One principle uniting the diverse projects at SDSU is increased food safety.

Torrey will develop techniques to uncover low numbers of pathogens in dairy products.

The 1985 salmonellosis outbreak was traced to fluid milk products from an Illinois dairy. Regional milk consumption dropped, and some physicians temporarily restricted dairy product consumption in high-risk groups: infants, the elderly, and patients on certain drug regimens.

Since the outbreak, inspection of raw milk and milk products has become even more stringent, but scientists like Torrey feel there is more to be done.

Although the rate should not cause alarm yet, milkborne outbreaks of





More variety in milk products will attract people to the dairy cases, and SDSU scientists are focusing on techniques that local plants can use without excessive extra investment. The Dairy Center conducts research that supports the development of new dairy products and new ways of using them. Milk ingredients are also part of many of the 400 or so other new foods that reach supermarket shelves every year.

campylobacteriosis have been reported increasingly in the U.S. since 1980. The causative agent is difficult to isolate from refrigerated milk and only recently has been found in milk products suspect in an outbreak of campylobacteriosis food poisoning. At present, no detection method is routinely successful. Torrey has included this pathogen in his proposal.

In a related project, Torrey will "gas" milk and retentate from ultra-filtered milk in the hopes of protecting them from spoilage organisms.

Carbon dioxide occurs naturally in cows' milk already. Torrey suspects that

more carbon dioxide can be added to fluid milk on the farm before processing and to other liquid, unpasteurized dairy products to control those microorganisms able to grow under refrigeration.

Adding antimicrobial gases produced by the bacterium that processors have already found to inhibit growth of molds on cheeses ought to help reduce losses from mold spoilage.

The influence of the preservative gases on product flavor, color, and other attributes will be monitored throughout the study to assure that gas concentrations do maintain or enhance quality and to evaluate the practicality of the method.

### **Practical methods being sought to make casein, now totally imported into U.S.**

Nearly 400 new food products are added to supermarket shelves every year, and many of them contain milk based ingredients. The meats industry produces approximately two to three trillion pounds of processed meat a year, and milk proteins are part of the ingredients.

One of those milk proteins is casein, and all food-quality casein is imported from New Zealand and a few other countries.

Casein imports have almost doubled in the past 20 years; in 1987, 200 million pounds were brought into the country. The National Commission on Dairy Policy has suggested that casein be reclassified from its current industrial chemical status to that of a dairy product and therefore be subject to import quotas.

That will put heavy demand on local casein/caseinate producing sources, says Vikram Mistry in one of his two related project proposals. At current commercial technology, meeting the demand will require new, specialized, and expensive equipment.

By using existing technology in a new manner, Mistry hopes to diafilter skim milk to 15-20% protein and remove as much salts and lactose as possible. He will then spray dry the precipitate to a 4% moisture powder containing no



lactose and minimally denatured casein and whey proteins.

The process eliminates the need for new equipment in dairy plants, as many already own ultrafiltration systems and spray dryers.

Development of the new products will help open avenues for new food products and increase milk utilization in the U.S., Mistry says.

### **Reduced saturated fats and calories would draw consumers to milk products**

Cheddars are the backbone of the cheese industry, but there are cheddars and cheddars.

Some cheese manufacturers concentrate milk to approximately 15% total solids before beginning the cheese making process. Bob Baer will investigate taking the concentration several points farther.

Condensing the milk will allow cheese makers to make more efficient use of plant equipment, he says, and ease the problems of whey disposal.

Baer and Dave Schingoethe have incorporated dairy-cow feeding into another product manufacturing study.

They remember hearing, in the days when milk stayed on the farm, "boy, you sure could taste when the cows got into the wild mustard in the spring."

Those days are long past, but feed still makes a difference, even if it can't be tasted. The fatty acid composition of milkfat is altered when cows are fed added fat from soybeans, soybean oil, sunflower seeds, or other plant or animal fats.

Milkfat contains about two-thirds saturated fatty acids. Today's health-minded society would like that concentration to be lower.

Very few research studies have evaluated the feeding of added fat or the products from the resulting milk, the scientists report. They expect new and modified low saturated-fat dairy products from their research, which will lead to increased dairy product consumption overall.

Not only is the public increasingly fats conscious; dieters restricting calorie intake have increased in numbers. This

means the per capita consumption of ice cream and frozen desserts (with the exception of premium products) is not growing.

Consequently, the dairy processing program at SDSU will add soft-serve ice cream to its already large line of ice creams. Baer and John Parsons will evaluate low calorie sweeteners, bulking agents, fiber, and other new ingredients in the production of low calorie frozen dairy desserts. They will also evaluate commercial frozen yogurts.

The result will be increased consumption and market stimulation as consumers return to milk products.

### **Studies are supported by South Dakota dairy farmers through checkoff program**

"These projects will stimulate the dairy industry in South Dakota and the nation," says Parsons. "We are optimistic that we and the scientists at Minnesota will make a difference.

"And we can enter into these needed studies thanks to the new Dairy Center."

Funding for the Center's \$1.2 million annual budget comes from several sources, including South Dakota dairy farmers through the commodity checkoff programs.

During each of the next 5 years, the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board will contribute \$400,000. The Minnesota Dairy Promotion Council (\$200,000), the American Dairy Association of South Dakota (\$67,370), and various dairy industry groups will add the second third; and the U of Minnesota and SDSU will contribute another \$400,000 in matching funds through their experiment stations.

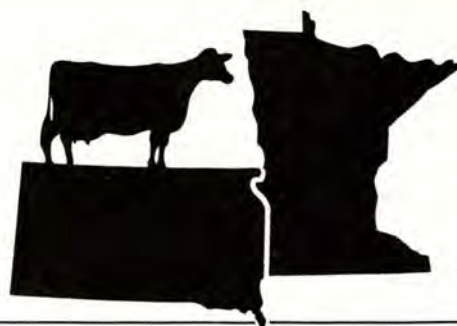
The SDSU Experiment Station will contribute about \$100,000 in federal-state matching funds. The local dairy industry, including the ADA, Nordica, Valley Queen Cheese, and smaller groups will add another \$100,000. The other third comes from the National Dairy Board. □

*Material in this article was collected from John Parsons, head of Dairy Science, and Jerry Leslie, SDSU ag news writer. Information from Sam Brungardt, U of Minnesota writer, was included.*



# Why here?

**Because we've got a success record  
not many South Dakotans know about**



Where is this new Dairy Research Center? We ought to see something for \$1.2 million.

Wait a moment, we share that money with the U of Minnesota, says John Parsons, head of the Dairy Science Department at SDSU. Our share is going mostly into hiring researchers and graduate assistants.

For that matter, where's the milk that's produced in this state?

Gone, most of it. Eighty percent is shipped out, says Parsons.

Just like the department's dairy manufacturing graduates. SDSU has the largest dairy manufacturing program in the U.S. and turns out 80% of the country's dairy manufacturing grads every year.

"With the national demand twice the supply of grads, they can go where the money is."

Well, then, if most of our milk and our graduates leave the state, how come we got the additional funds for dairy product research?

Parsons' reply is that the Dairy Science Department at SDSU has made a greater impact outside the state than it has at home.

"Our department, particularly the dairy manufacturing program, is respected nationally. The request that we and Minnesota presented was the model against which the proposals from 25 other institutions were compared."

Those are a couple of the reasons the National Dairy Board awarded \$1.2 million to SDSU and the U of Minnesota to jointly operate the Dairy Foods Research Center, one of only six centers nationwide that will conduct basic research to support the development of new dairy products and new ways of using dairy products.

The homefolks would still like to know how the Dairy Center will benefit South Dakotans.

"Practical, efficient ways to make manufactured dairy products safer and more attractive to consumers and increase sales will benefit South Dakota dairymen and the state ag economy," Parsons answers.

"We consume only a fraction of what we produce. The rest is shipped out of state, mostly as cheese products.

"We compete with the rest of the country's dairy producers for the consumer's dollar, so when our research here raises consumer demand, we will profit just as much as producers in California or New Jersey."

In addition, the Dairy Center will benefit local producers because it will be a source of even more information than it is presently.

"We are already answering questions for dairymen from North Dakota and beyond," Parsons said. "For them we are the closest source."

The additional research projects will also draw more students and make it easier to hire faculty. SDSU is the only university in the upper Midwest with a traditional manufacturing program and one of four universities in the U.S. with a traditional dairy science department. (The three others are Mississippi State, Cal Poly, and Vermont.)

Parsons praises the students already enrolled.

At the most recent student intercollegiate contest, a "regional" which included Penn State and Cal Poly, SDSU's three-person dairy products judging team took two firsts, two seconds, and two thirds, top individual, and first overall.

"The second place team, Minnesota, had twice as many points." (Low score wins.)

"Over the years, the dairy products judging teams have won more national contests than any other school in the nation."

These are young people who "come to school thinking dairy is only milking the cows. They find we can offer them scholarships and part-time jobs in our processing plant while they're in college, and that there is demand for their skills after they graduate."

The scholarships get better all the time. The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board offered, this year for the first time, 20 scholarships in dairy manufacturing. SDSU got four of the 20.

"Students who work in the Dairy Center will have a greater edge and command better salaries in the job market.

"It's a good deal all around."







# Reservations: basis for development

**New projects need most recent,  
accurate data before start-up**

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If given a choice, most people would probably pick a good, secure job first and a place to live second.

Native Americans in South Dakota make a different choice. They see themselves first as members of their communities and second as wage earners.

"Family" is paramount in the Native American culture, so much so that many Native Americans will choose to live in communities where job opportunities are lacking. They endure poverty, poor housing, unemployment, underemployment, and inadequate health





care on South Dakota reservations and designated areas as a result.

Tribal governments continue to seek economic and human development to overcome these social conditions. Economic development is not new; many projects have been started on the reservations, only to fail.

Native Americans are actually caught in the backwash of economic development. Even when they accept the objectives of (1) maximum economic self-sufficiency, (2) full participation in American life, and (3) equal citizenship privileges and responsibilities, they still must overcome many obstacles before these objectives become reality.

A competent "change agent" considering services or a new industry anywhere, on or off a reservation, would base the project on the most recent and accurate socio-economic and demographic data available. Data would include general population characteristics, including age composition and residency patterns; social characteristics of households and families, such as education, health, labor force participation, income, and poverty data; and the types of industries already located in the area.

### **Reservation populations are young, influencing needs in education, jobs**

Of South Dakota's nearly 45,000 Native Americans (Dakota), 63% live on nine designated reservations and areas: Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Flandreau, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Sisseton, Standing Rock, and Yankton. Flandreau, Sisseton, and Yankton are open reservation areas (they have no federally recognized boundaries).

Of the 16,480 Native Americans living off reservations, 46% live in just five counties: Bennett, Mellette, and Pennington (all near Pine Ridge and Rosebud), and Brown (Aberdeen) and Minnehaha (Sioux Falls).

Age and sex data reveal the people most in need of those services to which development should be directed.

Reservation populations are young; over half of the people on each reservation is

under 20 years of age. In comparison, 32% of the U.S. and 34% of South Dakota's populations are under 20.

Median age (half the population above and half below) ranges from 17.4 years on Crow Creek to 18.9 on Yankton; the median age for South Dakota as a whole is 28.8, while the U.S. figure is 30.0 years.

Lower numbers of elderly accompany the high numbers of young people. The range is from a low of 4.7% elderly in Lower Brule to 9.5% in Sisseton and Flandreau. The percents of aged South Dakotans and Americans, in comparison, are 17.7% and 15.7%, respectively.

Consequently, Native American populations concentrate their resources on services needed by the young.

Family size ranges from 4 to 5.6 people per household; however, children in 45.6% of Native American families live in a single-parent home. The state average is 12.9%.

Single-parent families range from 36.6% of total families at Flandreau to 59.8% at Yankton.

The types of economic development projects initiated on a reservation must be compatible with the skills and work experiences of the population. In most cases, more than 50% of Native Americans on reservations who are 25 or older have not graduated from high school. For all South Dakotans 25 and older, the figure is 67.9% high school graduates.

The reservation percentages probably will not increase without human development programs designed for the young. Less than 53% of all youth from 5 to 19 on the reservations are now enrolled in school. Although statewide figures are available for only 5- to 17-year-olds, 93.3% are in school.

### **Even 'lowest' reservation unemployment rate is twice the national average**

Pockets of underdevelopment and abject poverty exist in the U.S.; Indian reservations in South Dakota are among the most distressed of these pockets.

Based on per capita income, South Dakota reservation counties—Buffalo (\$2,642), Corson (\$3,563), Shannon



(\$2,645), Todd (\$3,159), and Ziebach (\$3,042)—are the poorest in the nation.

Median income is also a measure of the status of Native Americans. Census figures show median family income for the United States at \$21,023 and for South Dakota at \$15,993. Median income of families on South Dakota reservations ranged from a high of \$12,484 at Lower Brule to a low of \$6,985 on Standing Rock.

The percentage of persons in poverty ranges from a high of 58% at Pine Ridge to a low of 24% at Flandreau. This figure is determined by median income and family size. Based on the U.S. standard (an income of \$9,287 for a family of four), 11.2% of the U.S. and 16.9% of South Dakota people were below poverty level.

High poverty rates and low incomes are also naturally related to unemployment. Reservation communities have extremely high rates of unemployment, from 45.8% at Crow Creek to a low of 28.7% at Rosebud. This compares to 13% for Native Americans nationally.

### **Native American labor force is concentrated in two industries**

By definition, "labor force" includes both working and unemployed people over 16 years of age. The labor force on South Dakota reservations ranged from 82.2% at Flandreau to 56.2% of the Yankton population. Of the total South Dakota Native American labor force, 75% is concentrated in only two industries: services (41.3%) and public administration (34.1%). Only 8.4% were in agriculture. Off-reservation work employs 24%.

This reflects the general absence of job opportunities other than those associated with education, social services, and BIA activities. It also reflects the general absence of profit-generating businesses: finance, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing.

The lack of retail trade activities has further consequences. Without grocery, hardware, and other stores, Native Americans end up spending their incomes in off-reservation communities, supporting those economies instead of their own.

### **New jobs won't be enough; human resource development programs will also be needed**

Economic development alone won't turn the reservations around.

Development projects must deal also with the Native American society and with social conditions that have been neglected by whites and Native Americans alike for years. Developers must plan for a very young population, large households, a large percent of families headed by a single parent, and low education. There are few job opportunities and, as a result, low median incomes. Poverty leads directly to the serious social problems of high alcohol and drug abuse, poor housing, and poor health.

Project leaders can not take for granted that certain human resources, skills, and abilities already exist. A development project on a reservation that is merely "economic" will probably fail. What has to be built in is a human resource development component.

This component has three options. First is rehabilitation. Increasing personal skills and improving the local infrastructure—sewage and water systems, roads, bridges, and hospitals—are part of this component.

Second are activities which prevent negative economic conditions, including minimum wage laws, improved education for the young, or relocating people to where the jobs are.

Third is a "safety net." Traditional federal programs, such as foodstamps/commodities, Aid to Dependent Children, General Assistance, HUD, CETA, and other programs have helped but they have not altered the basic economy. These programs alone have never raised the standard of living in any part of the country.

Scaled industrialization, the development of mainstreet economies on the reservations, diversification, relevant training and education, and the support of those strong family ties will be an effective economic development package program for South Dakota reservations. □

*The writers are Linda Baer, professor, and Don Arwood and Velva-Lu Spencer, graduate research assistants, from the Department of Rural Sociology, SDSU.*





# The connection

**A network forms; SDSU and Ford Foundation help**

Native American leaders and college officials, some of them alums, wondered if SDSU could help them.

These community leaders believed that increased training and education in agriculture and natural resource management would open the doorway to economic development on Native American reservations.

The idea sounded just as good in New York as it did in Brookings.

The Ford Foundation of New York, a private funding agency, awarded SDSU nearly \$120,000 for 2 years to examine the possibilities. Among other things, the money has supported an advisory board of tribal chair people, planning officials, and community college staff and administrators. It has financed four graduate assistantships connected with the project. And publications bulge with data on the human and natural resource potential of the reservations.

With the backing of the Foundation and the research and teaching support of SDSU, the Native American leaders have been able to enhance programs that could ultimately lead to permanent economic development on the reservations.

They have moved past "beginnings." After testing a new course offering at

Oglala Lakota College under project funding, administrators of the college sought and were awarded a \$50,000 grant directly from Ford to strengthen the natural resources curriculum.

The school currently has 20 students enrolled in the curriculum, and all have been placed into summer jobs both on and off the reservation.

## **Projects reveal the untapped talent and resources found in communities**

"SDSU is involved because it is our goal to support South Dakota's Native American population, about 44,000 people, in their move toward economic development and alleviation of poverty," said Linda Baer, project director and associate professor in the Rural Sociology Department.

"The advisory board wanted a database that showed what existed on the nine reservations in terms of human and natural resource potential. We were able to build that for them."

A curriculum in water resource management at Sinte Gleska College, Rosebud Reservation, is being developed



with assistance from SDSU. Ford Foundation helped to sponsor a regional water resource seminar and contributed to the college's purchase of library materials on the issues.

Rosebud sits on the Oglala Aquifer, the largest in the U.S. In addition, tributaries of the Missouri River flow through the reservation. The plan is to train Indian water specialists to assume leadership roles on the reservation, negotiate tribal water rights, and develop long-range plans for water use.

Two other projects, with the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock community colleges, involve the development of an agriculture curriculum and, on the Cheyenne River Reservation, a brochure profiling industrial and business opportunities on the reservation.

The Cheyenne River Community College has already held a 12-week course in "Practical Range Management" to both promote better range management on private and Indian trust lands in the area and "to show Native Americans that there really are employment opportunities in natural resources for trained people."

A second course is planned. If interest remains high, Baer said, the college will expand its agricultural section to a 2-year degree program. Credits are transferrable to SDSU for a 4-year degree.

Cooperative undergraduate post-secondary education programs are being put together at Oglala Lakota College. A 4-week course has already been offered in natural resources.

A unique opportunity is developing with Standing Rock Reservation and the state of South Dakota, Baer said.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is caretaker for over 2.3 million acres in both North and South Dakota. The Missouri River is on its eastern boundary.

"The River as a recreational resource has been virtually untapped to this point because there was no development plan," Baer said.

"Now, however, the South Dakota Department of Tourism and Economic Development and the Army Corps of Engineers are interested in working with the tribe." A consultant has been hired by

the state to determine the feasibility of water and recreation development, she added.

### **'Network' allows cooperation but keeps family and community identities intact**

Reservation-based community colleges have been offering adult and post-secondary programs for 15 years to meet the educational and cultural needs of Native Americans.

"Our present projects are building on those successes. They were necessary steps before moving into tribal economic development," Baer said.

"We'd like to establish more permanent institutional links with tribal colleges so that the strengths and expertise of SDSU can be expanded and made available to the reservations. At the same time, we recognize the strengths and resources of the reservations and hope to learn more about the Lakota culture and their understanding of working on and living off the land."

In the meantime, the grants have enabled SDSU to help build a network among tribal planning offices, tribal administrators, and Indian community colleges, the three main entities involved in developing human and natural resources on the reservations.

"Skills and resources, projects, and people transfer along this network," Baer said. "Communities and families retain their identities, but now they are developing wider goals on their own terms and cooperating with each other more fully."

"The people at Ford Foundation have been impressed enough with the spirit and progress of the people involved in this project to continue and increase the funding."

"It is good to have the support of the Ford Foundation. It is even better when more links to foundations are forged directly by Native Americans to expand and enhance the programs that will train some of the future leaders of the reservations of South Dakota." □

*This article includes information from University Relations, SDSU.*



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# 101st

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A N N U A L  
R E P O R T

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# 101st

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## A N N U A L R E P O R T

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**South Dakota State University**

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Dennis Yeaton, Chamberlain  
Charles Johnson, Madison  
Lawrence Kocer, Martin  
Keith Thompson, Letcher

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Larry Jorgenson, Trent  
H. Victor Joachin, Corona  
Gary Myers, Onida  
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##### **1987**

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## Projects

### Agricultural Engineering

H-045—Heat pumps for livestock building heating and cooling and for agricultural processing; Julson, Lytle, Froehlich  
H-085—New approaches to tillage practices and equipment design; Alcock, Froehlich, Arnold  
H-134—Improvements in farm chore vehicles and their uses; Christianson, Alcock  
H-176—Irrigation management for efficient crop water use; DeBoer, Chu, Stange, Werner  
H-187—Conservation of water, soil, and energy by constant hold spacing trail tubes; Chu, DeBoer  
H-196—Management of shallow water tables under agricultural lands; DeBoer, Chu, Lytle, Stange  
H-197—Engineering investigations of animal housing environments; Froehlich, Anderson, Hellickson, Julson, Schipull  
H-207—Engineering aspects of mushroom production in the upper midwest; Julson, Froehlich, Pohl  
R-214—Weather and climate research for agricultural decision-making in the North-Central Region; Lytle  
H-246—Equipment for agricultural operations as related to soil compaction; Froehlich, Alcock  
H-247—Evaluation and design of post frame agricultural structures; Anderson, Froehlich, Julson  
H-256—Evaluation and design of chemical application equipment for agronomic agriculture; Froehlich, Klosterman



## Animal and Range Sciences

- H-037—Factors controlling the growth of turkey muscle cells in vitro; McFarland  
 S-043—Range and tame pasture production in western South Dakota; J.R. Johnson, Stymiest  
 H-044—Reproductive efficiency in commercial beef production; Pruitt  
 R-093—Beef cattle improvement through breeding; Marshall  
 H-153—Reproductive efficiency of sheep; Slyter  
 H-175—Corn-corn silage diets for feedlot cattle; Wagner  
 H-177—Management for integrated production of lean beef; Pritchard, Pruitt, Gee  
 H-185—Amino acid balance in swine diets, effects of pig growth, and nitrogen and mineral metabolism; Wahlstrom, Libal  
 H-195—Nutrient interrelationships affecting performance and body composition of swine; Libal, Wahlstrom  
 H-217—Effects of specific feed proteins on the amino acid nutrition of growing lambs; Pritchard  
 H-276—Shortening postpartum interval and increasing pregnancy rates in estrous synchronized beef cows; Miller  
 H-297—Optimizing grazing strategies on native and introduced rangelands; P. Johnson  
 R-307—Increasing prolificacy in sheep and its impact on nutritional needs; Slyter  
 H-314—Rangeland resource improvement; Gartner  
 H-357—Nutrient and management interrelationships affecting reproductive efficiency of swine; Libal, Wahlstrom  
 H-367—Effect of flaxseed in swine rations on omega-3 fatty acid development in body tissues; Romans

## Biology

- H-055—Tissue and cell culture techniques in breeding monocots; Chen, Boe, Wicks  
 H-095—Cytology of plant regeneration in tissue cultures of monocots; McMullen, Chen  
 H-296—Controlling early embryo mortalities; Granholm

## Dairy Science

- H-027—Properties and applications of ultrafiltered milk; Mistry  
 R-137—Metabolic relationships in nutrient supply for lactating cows; Schingoethe  
 R-147—Dairy herd management strategies for improved decision making and profitability; Sommerfeldt

- H-157—Composition, quality, and consumer acceptance of milk and dairy products; Baer  
 H-206—Whey utilization by dairy cattle; Schingoethe  
 H-257—Analysis of dairy products; Parsons  
 H-317—Quality, microbiological safety, and profitability of dairy products; Torrey  
 R-382—Nutritional utilization of forages by dairy cattle; Sommerfeldt

## Economics

- H-075—Economic analysis of South Dakota farmer experience with reduced tillage systems; Taylor, Dobbs  
 H-076—Economics of farming systems alternatives in eastern South Dakota; Dobbs, Taylor  
 R-086—Determinants of farm size and structure in north-central areas of the U.S.; Janssen  
 H-087—Economic analysis of South Dakota rangeland values, lease and rental rates, and grazing fees; Beutler  
 H-096—Impact of the 1986 federal tax reform on South Dakota agriculture; Lundeen  
 H-106—Grain price and interest rate risk management for South Dakota producers and agribusinesses; Schmiesing  
 H-11—Economic analyses of farmland values, rental practices, and financing arrangements in South Dakota; Janssen  
 H-125—Effect of changes in transportation on performance of the U.S. agricultural transportation system; Lamberton  
 H-226—Financing agriculture in a changing environment: macro, market, policy, and management issues; Lamberton  
 H-266—Analysis of marketing strategies to reduce price risk for South Dakota livestock producers; Ellingson

## Home Economics

- H-205—Tissue levels of pesticides in South Dakota residents on normal and calorie-restricted diets; Crews, DeZeeuw  
 H-337—Pesticide residues in human milk samples from South Dakota residents; Bohannon, Crews, DeZeeuw  
 H-397—Textile properties influencing pesticide contamination by soil redeposition; Hallberg

## Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape & Parks

- MS-004—Genetic improvement of tall tree species for South Dakota; Schaefer  
 H-164—Superior native and introduced trees and shrubs for South Dakota; Evers  
 H-166—Micropropagation of herbaceous perennials: anemone pulsatilla, dictamnus albus, and salvia x superba; Spinksi  
 H-204—Breeding fruit cultivars and improving fruit cultural practices for South Dakota; Peterson, Gries  
 R-336—Strategies and procedures for advanced generation breeding of north-central forest species; Schaefer  
 MS-387—Factors in the success/failure of ponderosa pine regeneration in the Black Hills; Schaefer  
 H-474—Increasing vegetable yields in South Dakota; Prashar

## Microbiology

- H-126—Chemotaxonomic characterization of pesticide-degrading bacteria; Gauger  
 H-155—Mycorrhizae and associated nitrogen fixation; Todd  
 H-165—Fuel ethanol and feed byproduct production from alternative feedstocks; Westby  
 H-327—Biological nitrogen cycling in agricultural soils; Todd  
 H-374—Nitrogen fixation and guanine metabolism in soil bacteria; Westby

## Plant Science

- SD-2-2792—Development of tissue culture techniques in sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.); Lay  
 R-005—Nutrient management in conservation tillage to improve productivity and environmental quality; White  
 H-016—Root growth and development of corn with respect to tillage system and landscape position; Schumacher  
 H-017—Faba beans as an alternate crop for South Dakota; Sorensen  
 H-024—Alternative farming systems; Smolik, Fixen, Hall  
 H-025—Effects of starter fertilization on corn under different cultural and environmental conditions; Fixen  
 MS-047—Understory herbage production: soil and forestry factors in the limestone uplands of the Black Hills; Lemme  
 CG-053—National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Association Program; Walgenbach  
 H-057—Soil survey information for agrotechnology transfer and soil productivity relationships in South Dakota; Malo  
 H-067—Residue management effects on nitrate and pesticide leaching and water quality; Kohl



H-077—Environmental and biological stress in wheat; Gellner  
 R-094—Bionomics, vector capabilities, and management strategies for face flies; Easton  
 H-097—Oats and rye adapted for South Dakota; Reeves  
 H-105—Suppression of stable fly population in beef cattle by sterile insects; Easton  
 H-107—Nutritive quality, growth, and production of forage crops; Kephart  
 H-117—Genetics of host-pathogen interactions of row crops in South Dakota; Carson  
 H-127—Phenotypic variation in tissue water transport during dehydration and rehydration of winter wheat; Kenefick  
 R-186—Introduction, maintenance, evaluation, and utilization of plant germplasm; Boe  
 H-193—Breeding and genetics of flax and sunflower; Lay, Grady, Ferguson  
 H-203—Corn breeding; Wicks, Carson  
 H-213—Spring wheat breeding and genetics; Cholick, Buchenau  
 R-234—Biological control of soil-borne plant pathogens in integrated crop management systems; Buchenau, Smolik, Rizvi  
 H-244—Freeze selection effects on membrane proteins and the cell cycle in winter cereals; Kenefick  
 H-245—Potato diseases in South Dakota; Gallenberg  
 H-253—Amelioration of claypan-range-soil properties to increase forage production; White  
 H-265—Germination and purity procedures for forage and revegetation species common to South Dakota; Gutormson  
 H-267—Water quality of soil water under intensively cultivated fields; Carlson  
 H-273—Entomophage grylli, a pathogen of grasshoppers; McDaniel  
 H-277—Breeding evaluation of forage grasses in South Dakota; Boe  
 R-282—Reduction of corn losses caused by nematodes in the North-Central Region; Smolik  
 H-286—Ecology and control of western and northern corn rootworm in South Dakota; Walgenbach, Elliott, Hein  
 R-287—Seed production of breeding lines of insect-pollinated forage legumes; Boe  
 R-304—Arthropod management and economic losses from insects, mites, and ticks on livestock; Easton  
 H-306—Determination of water stress with isotopic ratios of carbon-12 and carbon-13; Beck  
 H-316—Cropping systems in western South Dakota; Stymiest, Rickerl, Jacobson, Johnson  
 R-333—Soil productivity and erosion; Schumacher, Lemme, Lindstrom  
 H-346—Economics and ecology of farm systems and conservation tillage; Rickerl, Weeldreyer, Stymiest, Sorensen, Smolik, Beck

H-356—Detection and control of soybean diseases in South Dakota; Ferguson  
 S-401—Foundation Seed Stock; Ingemansen  
 S-402—Seed certification; Pollman  
 S-403—Seed testing; Gutormson  
 S-404—Variety testing; Bonnemann  
 S-406—Survey entomologist; Walgenbach  
 S-482—Physiological regulation of individual components of seed yield; Dybing  
 R-504—Integrating crop culture, chemicals, and life cycles to control persistent weeds; Arnold

## Rural Sociology

H-167—Census Data Center; Satterlee

## Station Biochemistry

CG-046—Flow cytometric analysis of bull sperm fertility; Evenson, Ballachey  
 H-116—Extraction methods in trace organic analysis of agricultural samples; Matthees  
 H-145—Flow cytometry; Evenson  
 H-394—Mineral nutrition and metabolism in animals; Emerick  
 H-404—Biochemistry of selenium; Palmer  
 S-407—Analytical services, Thiex

## Veterinary Science

CG-056—Modified live escherichia coli vaccine for colibacillosis of pigs; Francis  
 R-066—Bovine respiratory disease: risk factors, pathogens, diagnosis, and management; Vickers  
 AH-136—Epidemiology of rotavirus infection in swine; Janke, Benfield  
 AH-225—Monoclonal antibodies and enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (elisa) to diagnose bovine viral diarrhea; Vickers  
 AH-227—Development of a diagnostic panel for the diagnosis of calf diarrhea; Benfield  
 H-237—Antibiotics, bacteria, and bacterial toxins and structure and function of porcine alveolar macrophages; Libal, Vickers, Zeman  
 AH-326—Effects of nutrition and management on susceptibility of calves to enteric diseases; Francis, Benfield, Libal, Owens, Sommerfeldt  
 R-347—Prevention and control of enteric diseases of swine; Francis, Benfield, Janke  
 H-366—Antibody protection of the conceptus from porcine parvovirus-contaminated semen; Kirkbride, Steen, Vickers  
 CG-544—Role of cellular receptors in the pathogenesis of porcine enteric viral infections; Benfield

## Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences

H-026—Development of polyploid fishes for South Dakota waters; Scalet  
 H-036—Management strategies to enhance South Dakota pond fishery resources; Modde  
 MS-514—Relationships of forests and agriculture to turkey management in eastern South Dakota; Flake  
 H-534—Assessment of riparian habitat damage caused by aquatic furbearers; Jenkins  
 S-492—South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; Berry, Higgins

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## Budget

### Agricultural Experiment Station

*For period ending June 30, 1988*

State appropriation	\$ 4,578,654
Federal appropriation	2,253,306
Federal restricted	889,853
Other restricted	4,327,503
Total	12,049,316

## Director's comments

*continued from page 2.*

that variety when you buy seed? Research is closer to these outcomes than you may think.

Very likely, the result will be good in terms of yield and pest control and may very well be more cost efficient. Not all the chemicals will be harmful. Hopefully, many will be biodegradable in a short period of time.

There's the big unknown. I fear that we will later find that some chemicals in this new system were cleared for release when they should not have been. Remember the many chemicals that we once used in ag but which are now banned?

We must reduce, not increase, our dependency on chemicals in agriculture.

We must expand our search for options immediately.

South Dakota alone can not do this kind of research, but we must do our share. I am working to make this a national initiative for all experiment stations, and I have some excellent support. I would like yours.

Whether you agree with me or not, I would appreciate your response. Our funds are limited, and they must be used for the greatest common good. We need to insert a word: the greatest **long-term** common good.

Sooner or later, farmers, ranchers, Experiment Station directors retire. The next generation takes over. Are we leaving them a future at least as good as what we started with? Let's protect our natural resources and environment from further contamination, even improve their quality, while we provide greater safety in the food we produce.



## Note to readers of *Farm & Home Research*:

The Agricultural Experiment Station enters its second century with a mission that has changed little over the years: to conduct research to enhance the quality of life in South Dakota through the beneficial use and development of economic, human and natural resources.

There have been many notable successes—measurable increases in crop yields, livestock production, and expansion of ag industries. There have been successes you have never seen—the insect and disease epidemics that were headed off, for example.

The Station is a public institution that you help support through your taxes. You ought to know what's going on. Too often, however, it seems the Experiment Station has trouble telling you what it does, the goals it reaches, the problems it faces.

That's why, with this issue of *Farm & Home Research*, we begin a planned expansion of our mailing list. You may be a new reader of our quarterly, and we hope you will profit from our stories. We will continue to send you a copy as issues come off press, and later this year will ask you to fill out a survey asking for your comments and opinions.

In one year we cannot cover all the projects and all the research conducted by our scientists. If you have questions or want to read about some particular project, write to us; we'd be pleased to answer.

Editor, *Farm & Home Research*  
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Brookings, SD 57007

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# south dakota farm & home research

Serving the People of South Dakota through Teaching, Research, Extension

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## Contents

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### **2** Director's comments

We test and evaluate herbicides and pesticides so that you can use them efficiently and economically. But we may be putting all our eggs in one basket; we should also be exploring non-chemical options to safeguard the environment and the quality of our foodstuffs.

### **3** Spring wheat: 'could have been worse'

We got an average 12 bu/A yield from our spring wheat this year, a pretty disappointing figure. Our fathers abandoned 96% of their fields and harvested 4 bu/A off the rest in the drought of '34. The reasons 1988 was better: modern varieties and better farming skills.

### **6** Forecast; continued 'infinite variety'

Who could fill his shoes (or overshoes)? Bill Lytle, retiring after 27 years of reading the weather as SDSU climatologist, leaves a legacy of records and a warning that "it won't get any better, not where we're sitting."

### **9** Dairy Center: a teamwork showcase

SDSU and the U of Minnesota, when they put their specialties together, landed a joint Dairy Research Center. Our emphasis in the project is greater food safety and increased consumer appeal of dairy products.

### **13** Why here?

Why would a Dairy Center come to SDSU when 80% of our milk and a good share of our dairy technology and graduates leave the state? How is it those dairy majors keep bringing home first-place trophies year after year?

### **14** Reservations: basis for development

The sense of kinship is so deep that Native Americans will endure extreme hardships to retain their family ties. Successful economic development always starts with demographic data. The data for the reservations show how serious the problems are.

### **17** The connection

Native American leaders turned to SDSU and the Ford Foundation of New York. With funding from Ford and technological assistance from SDSU, the reservations and their colleges are now developing their own human and natural resources.

### **19** 101st annual report

We present the scientists of the Agricultural Experiment Station and their projects and publications for Fiscal Year 88